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ABSTRACT

This story, intended for classroom presentation, comes with suggested activities (with illustrations) for students to undertake. The story is designed to be initially presented by one storyteller/teacher (with different voices) or by 5-8 students in group tandem style. The story and the activities allow students to develop various oral language and communication skills and can be used in conjunction with curriculum in other language arts. An additional use of the story can be in retelling at a later point with the story visuals that accompany the activities. The story recounts the adventures of a family of fish that live in the underwater world. (NKA)

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CLASSROOM CORNER: THE WATER TROLL—Story and Lesson

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Classroom Corner is a new section for Storytelling World. It offers stories designed to build academic skills in the elementary school classroom (although these stories may be used with no follow-up). This story may be initially presented by one storyteller/teacher (with different voices) or by 5-8 students in group tandem style, thus enhancing a variety of oral language and communication skills. Other students may engage in story retelling at a later point with the story visuals on the following two pages. Additional teaching suggestions are also offered on these pages.

Teller 1: In the underwater world deep, deep in the ocean, there lived a family of fish named the Finns. The Finn family was made up of five fine fish. In addition to Mother and Father Finn, there were wee small sister Finn named Faye, medium-sized sister Finn named Felicia, and great big sister Finn named Frederica.

Teller 2: The Finn sisters were preparing to attend a party at the home of Tricia Tuna. Her parties were always the talk of the underwater world, for she always had delicious delectable foods and fabulously funny games.

Teller 3: However, the Finn sisters had one big problem. To travel to Tricia Tuna's house, they would have to pass through a dark, spooky cavern guarded by a great big, mean, ugly water troll. So the Finn sisters got their gills together and came up with this plan to fool that water troll.

Teller 4: That evening came, and the first fragile fish Faye Finn faced the cavern of the water troll. As soon as she entered the cavern, she heard his terrifying cry.

Water Troll: Who's that flitting her fins through my cavern?

Faye Finn: It is I, the fragile fish, Faye Finn.

Water Troll: *(To himself)* Oh, boy, I've been wanting a fish filet for some time now. *(To Faye)* You'll make a tasty treat, yes, indeed.

Faye Finn: Oh, but Mr. Troll, Sir . . . Look at me! I'm just small fry for you, scarcely larger than a minnow. Why not wait for my medium-sized fish sister, Felicia? She's much bigger and will be such a better meal for you!

Water Troll: Bigger, you say? Well...all right! You may pass. I'll just wait right here for your more sizable sister.

Teller 1: And fragile Faye Finn wiggled her tiny fins happily on to the Tricia Tuna's party. About that time along came flashy Felicia Finn. She heard the terrifying cry of the water troll.

Water Troll: Who's that flitting her fins through my cavern?

Felicia Finn: It is I, the flashy fish, Felicia Finn.

Water Troll: Your little sister told me you'd be along, and she was right! You *will* make a fine fish feast!

Felicia Finn: Oh, Mr. Troll, I have an even better idea for you. Why not wait for my even more sizable sister, Frederica? She's sensational! She is almost the size of a whale (nothing personal, you understand), and she will keep you in fish filets for days and days and days!

Water Troll: The size of a whale, you say? You're not pulling my fins, are you? All right, you may pass.

Teller 2: So that flashy Felicia Finn wiggled her fins just as freely as her sister before her, and she swam on toward Tricia Tuna's party.

Water Troll: Oh, I just can't wait to sink my teeth into that delectable fish filet. Mmm..... Should I fricassee her, or fry her, or better yet, barbecue her and dip her in piles and piles of ketchup? I'll need lots of ketchup if she's as big as a whale. No problem! I've eaten huge whales before. I've even eaten an octopus before. Never have I tasted anything I didn't like! Except old Samuel Swordfish! He gave me a terrible case of indigestion! *(Loud burp)* I'll never do that again!

Teller 3: As the water troll planned his fish feast, who should approach the cavern but that fabulous fish, Frederica Finn! However, the waters began to boil. The cavern quaked, and darkness filled the horrible chambers of the water troll. He was terribly frightened, and he cried,

Water Troll: Wh-h-h-ho's that f-f-f-flitting her fins through my cavern?

Frederica Finn: It is I, the fabulous fish, Frederica Finn! I hear you want to ask me a question.

Water Troll: *(Seeing her size)* Wh-h-h-ho me? O-O-O-Oh, no! You must be mistaken. That was my bigger water troll brother who lives further—plumb across the ocean floor. Oh, I hate to talk and swim, but I think I hear him calling me now! Bye! Whew!

Teller 4: And that mean, ugly old water troll zipped away, never to be seen again. And the biggest sister fabulous Frederica Finn wiggled her fins happily as she, too, went to Tricia Tuna's party. There the three Finn sisters had a wonderful time. They never had to worry about that water troll again, because, you see, he left that underwater world and is now roaming upon the land. The last we heard of him, he was hiding under a bridge waiting for a family of billy goats named Gruff.

All tellers: But that's another story.... SW

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Student Activities for *The Water Troll*

A story such as *The Water Troll* can be correlated with the academic curriculum in many ways. Below and on the following page are some suggestions for classroom skills connections.

Student Activity: Fun with Story Retelling. The characters provided for this story may be prepared as stick characters or as flannel board visuals for story retelling.

Student Activity: Fish Facts. Fish are very interesting creatures. Check in an encyclopedia or in a resource book to find out as much as you can about many different kinds of fish. As you are reading, consider the answers to the following questions: Which fish is the largest of all? Which fish looks the most frightening to you? Which fish do you think is the most beautiful? Which fish is the most unusual? Why do you think so? Which fish is the most colorful? Describe a strange habit or behavior of a fish. Find a fish that resembles an animal. Name the fish and animal. If you turned into a fish for just one day, which fish would you want to be? Study several different fish before you decide. On separate paper write a short story about an unusual adventure you might have on that one day.

Student Activity: Name That Fish. Do you remember the names of the fish in this story? These names have alliteration. Alliteration is the repeating of a consonant sound at the beginnings of several words. *Faye Finn*, *Felicia Finn*, *Frederica Finn*, and *Tricia Tuna* all have the same beginning consonant sound. A word added to describe each fish (such as *the fragile fish Faye Finn*) repeats this sound again. Think of some kinds of fish you know. Write some of these kinds of fish at the right sides of a sheet of paper. Then think of a name for each fish which begins with the same sound. To the left of each, write two or three describing words which also begin with the same sound. An example is: *The big, blundering, beastly Benjamin Bass*. Be as creative as you can.

The Water Troll

Felicia Finn

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DALE PENLEY

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Student Activity: Fractured Fish Tales. The story *The Water Troll* is a fractured fairy tale (twice-told tale) which begins with the plot of a popular children's story, but uses different characters and a slightly different twist at the end. Writing this type of story can be fun. Think of another popular children's story and rewrite it with fish as characters. Use separate paper to write this story. You may wish to work in small groups to create this new story. When you finish, have fun telling this story to a friend or family member.

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